

was no longer necessary as male pilots were becoming available to fill the jobs the women were performing. Despite the end of the program, she and many other women did not abandon their love of flying. They continued to fight alongside one another to gain recognition for their remarkable contribution. In the 1970s, they became deeply involved in a campaign nicknamed the "Battle of Congress" to gain veteran status for their service during the war. They finally succeeded in 1977 despite continued gender discrimination.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Gayle Bevis Ewing Reed and other flyers from the WASP program who remain an inspiration for young women and men alike. She is not only a hero but a symbol of what can be achieved when goals are pursued and barriers overcome. She continues the legacy set down by generations of ambitious women by honoring her talent and maintaining a steadfast commitment to her dreams.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 15, 2009

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to promulgate the notion of a unified Caribbean, where an island nation may assist its neighbor nations in prospering culturally, economically, and socially. There is so much we can do together, so much that binds us—a common humanity, a desire for advancement, a love of country and culture. It is by staying true to these commonalities, while celebrating—not ignoring—our differences, that true cooperation and exchange can flourish in the Caribbean region. Our divisions are nowhere near as salient as those elements that draw us closer.

We are finally making headway in improving our relations with Cuba. After decades of turning a cold shoulder to the Cuban people, we are poised to allow more of our American essence to penetrate the Cuban bubble. Our Cuban American brothers and sisters are no longer hamstrung by a cruel travel ban that allowed them only one trip to the island every three years, forcing them to miss weddings, funerals, and births happening only 90 miles away. The Obama Administration has opened itself up to talking with the Cuban government. Nothing has to be off the negotiation table, but we get nowhere when we outright reject all dialogue. Five decades of failed policy have mired us in the same 1960s arguments and rhetoric to the benefit of neither nation. It is time for a fresh, bold approach.

We should wholesale lift the travel ban for all of our citizens and legal residents. Wherever Americans travel, they bring their values, their morals, and democratic mores to bear. Cuba needs more of this, not less. We should end an embargo that has proven to be a scapegoat for the Cuban government and a detriment to the Cuban people—all the while our economy and our farmers suffer the brunt of an untapped market. We should be supplying the island with much-needed food, and medicines, and charity.

Cubans and Americans have had a love affair for decades. The affinity between the two

peoples has developed naturally, from our shared musical influences to our predilection for baseball. The island has such a rich history of heroes and heroines, from independence fighters such as José Martí to salsa innovator Celia Cruz. May we celebrate the distinct Cuban cultural imprint, while looking forward to a new, improved Caribbean region that fosters intercultural ties and smart, responsible policy.

FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2010 AND 2011

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 10, 2009

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H.R. 2410, the Foreign Relations Authorization Act for Fiscal Years 2010 and 2011. I want to commend my colleague, Mr. BERMAN of California, for his leadership in moving this important bill through the Committee on Foreign Affairs and bringing it to the Floor today. This important legislation represents an opportunity for the U.S. Congress to assert its proper advisory role in shaping civilian elements of our national security infrastructure.

This legislation firmly launches the U.S. on an effort to invigorate our frontline defense: Diplomatic and development capabilities at the heart of our vast global engagements. Of course, diplomacy is effective only if backed by a robust military, but we know even heroic efforts by our military forces in Iraq and Afghanistan won't secure stable victories without complementary civilian efforts.

This bill reinvests in our ability to build global consensus that favors U.S. interests. It increases Peace Corps programs and expands public diplomacy, broadcasting, and educational exchanges that will forge lasting bonds and build allies. Finally, this bill removes our arrearsages to the United Nations, boosting our credibility in this key forum that lends legitimacy and effectiveness to so many of our multilateral endeavors. It also seeks to realign U.S. policies on controlled exports, streamlining licensing to help protect U.S. jobs and preserve the competitive edge of U.S. businesses while preserving nonproliferation goals.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill that represents a significant step towards restoring diplomacy as our Nation's first line of defense. By expanding dialogue, diplomacy, and development today, we will avoid the far greater costs of solving crises that instead would emerge from our indifference.

RECOGNIZING HILLEL FOUNDATION

SPEECH OF

HON. RON KLEIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 15, 2009

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the passage of H. Res. 493, a resolution

to honor the 85th anniversary of Hillel: the Foundation for Jewish Campus Life.

I would like to thank Congressman TIM JOHNSON for co-authoring this resolution with me. Congressman JOHNSON's district is the home of the first Hillel, founded in 1923.

As my colleagues know well, Hillel is the world's largest Jewish college campus organization, serving students on over 500 campuses around the world.

Last night, with dozens of house parties and celebrations, Hillel celebrated its 85th anniversary.

Hillel has been an important partner to universities by providing resources, programs and other forms of support to the entire campus community. Hillel members, professional staff and lay leaders have educated students about American values and have helped them to provide leadership for causes, including the civil rights movement, the campaign to free Soviet Jewry, the effort to stop the genocide in Darfur, and the promotion of the U.S.-Israel relationship.

I would like to recognize Wayne Firestone, the President of Hillel, originally from South Florida and a University of Miami Hillel alumnus, for his tireless work on behalf of the many causes that Hillel students advance. I would also like to commend Josh Kram, originally from South Florida and a Hillel alumnus at the University of Florida, for helping to coordinate a successful birthday celebration.

Hillel is an important institution that has provided numerous benefits to young people and their communities. It is only appropriate that on this anniversary, Congress recognize Hillel's achievements in giving back to this country and the world.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ALBIO SIRE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

Mr. SIRE. Madam Speaker, I missed the following votes on June 15, 2009. Had I been present, I would have voted yes on rollcall 336 on H. Res. 430, yes on rollcall 337 on H.R. 2325; and yes on rollcall 338 on H.R. 729.

THE HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Madam Speaker, I am proud to rise today to introduce the High School Athletics Accountability Act. As opportunities for girls and women to participate in sports and athletics have been made increasingly available, women's participation has grown exponentially. Over three million high school girls now participate in organized sports, as opposed to 294,015 in 1971 before Title IX was enacted. Athletic participation has brought with it confidence and camaraderie among young women, giving them memories and friends that will last a lifetime.